

# God--BLESSED! We--begotten!

Review of 1 Peter:

The Epistle of First Peter was written to encourage and strengthen the Jewish believers scattered throughout the northeastern part of Asia Minor.

Their faith was being sorely tested through persecution and testing.

Abounding in exhortations and references from Old Testament history, the epistle was very practical and helpful to the believing Jews as they daily faced severe times of trial.

Sufferings and glory keynote the contents.

In all probability, Peter was ministering to the Jewish believers in Babylon of Mesopotamia, which at this time in Biblical history was a city fast decaying.

Although the date is uncertain, it likely was written between the years A.D. 62 and 65.

The goal of understanding and teaching glorious truth: worship.

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**Blessed be the God** The word blessed means well-spoken-of; praised; honored;

Preaching is worshipful exposition of glorious biblical truth.

Five great truths that lead us into this kind of worship

**(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy...**

There's the first one: God's abundant mercy.

**Abundant:** Webster's: a. Plentiful; in great quantity; fully sufficient; as an abundant supply. In scripture, abounding; having in great quantity; overflowing with.

**Mercy:** 1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. The Lord is long-suffering and of **great mercy**, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty. Num 14.

2. An act or exercise of mercy or favor. It is a mercy that they escaped.

I am not worthy of the least of all thy **mercies**. Gen 32.

3. Pity; compassion manifested towards a person in distress.

And he said, he that **showed mercy** on him. Luke 10.

4. Clemency and bounty.

**Mercy and truth** preserve the king; and his throne is **upheld by mercy**. Prov 28.

5. Charity, or the duties of charity and benevolence.

I will **have mercy** and not sacrifice. Mat 9.

6. Grace; favor. 1 Cor 7. Jude 2.

7. Eternal life, the fruit of mercy. 2 Tim 1.

8. Pardon.

I cry thee **mercy** with all my heart.

9. The act of sparing, or the forbearance of a violent act expected. The prisoner cried for mercy.

**...which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope...**

There's the second truth about God that moves Peter: God is the one who caused us to be begotten again, or born again.

We are begotten unto two things:

1. a lively hope [v.3]
2. an inheritance [v.4]

**Hope:** Webster's: 1. A desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable. Hope differs from wish and desire in this, that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it. Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain and anxiety.

2. Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises; a scriptural sense.

**... hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...**

There's the third truth about God that gripped Peter: God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

**4) ...to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

There's the fourth truth about God that enthralled Peter: God promises an inheritance to his newborns.

God is the begetting Father and God is the source of the inheritance.

**Inheritance:** Webster's: n. An estate derived from an ancestor to an heir by succession or in course of law; or an estate which the law casts on a child or other person, as the representative of the deceased ancestor.

1. The reception of an estate by hereditary right, or the descent by which an estate or title is cast on the heir; as, the heir received the estate by inheritance.

2. The estate or possession which may descend to an heir, though it has not descended.

And Rachel and Leah answered and said, is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Gen 31.

3. An estate given or possessed by donation or divine appropriation. Num 26.

4. That which is possessed or enjoyed.

Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance. Psa 2.

Four characteristics of that inheritance:

a. It is incorruptible

Thayer's: uncorrupted, not liable to corruption or decay, imperishable

b. it is undefiled

Vine's: to defile by staining, as with color

Thayer's: not defiled, unsoiled; free from that by which the nature of a thing is deformed and debased, or its force and vigour impaired

c. it fadeth not away

Vine's: Used by Peter only, and but once. From another Greek word meaning to wither. The loveliness of the heavenly inheritance is described as exempt from the blight which attaches to earthly bloom.

Thayer's: not fading away, unfading, perennial

d. it is reserved

Thayer Definition:

1) to attend to carefully, take care of

1a) to guard

God is the giver here. Notice that in these verses we are receivers at every point: mercy, new birth, resurrection, inheritance.

Finally...

[the inheritance is] reserved (literally "kept") in heaven for you.

Who is reserving or keeping it? Answer: God is.

## SO WHAT?

So if you just take verses 3 and 4 there are five answers to the question: What great truth brought Peter to worship this way? What gripped his mind and moved his heart and opened his mouth to say, "Blessed be God"? The answer is:

1. God is great in mercy.

2. God causes us to be born again to a lively or living hope.

3. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

4. God promises an inheritance to those whom he fathers.

5. (And) God is keeping that inheritance so that it will never, ever perish or soil or fade.